(c) Exchange in Trivandrum and Kollam Districts are proposed to be connected to Trivandrum Digital TAX. The Exchanges already having STD facility in the above districts are also proposed to be transferred to the Digital TAX at Trivandrum.

Digital TAX will provide better connectivity and much improved service.

Pathanamthitta, Tiruvalla, Kumbanad, Ranni, Kozhencherry, Adoor & Pandalam in Pathanamthitta District which are having STD facility have been connected to the new Digital TAX commissioned at Kottayam.

National Committee on Dam Safety

1909. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and tenure of the National Committee on Dam Safety;

(b) the number of meetings held by the Committee so far and the recommendations made in respect of dams, river valley projects and assistance to States for dams during the last two years; and

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted, implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Union Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The National Committee on Dam Safety was constituted in October, 1987. The Committee as per latest composition comprises of the Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) as Chairman, Member (Design & Research), CWC as Vice-Chairman and representatives from Geological Survey of India, Indian Meteorological Department, Bhakra Beas Management Board, Indian Association of Hydrologists, Indian Society of Engineering Geology, and State Governments of Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal and Rajasthan as members. The Chief Engineer, Dam Safety Organisation, CWC is the Member Secretary of the Committee. The Committee has no fixed tenure and is required to meet twice a year.

(b) and (c). The Committee has held 8 meetings. During the last two years, it has advised the States on mode of conducting inspection of dams, operation and maintenance of dams, Compilation of data books, completion reports, structural and hydrological review of existing dams, instrumentation and seismic status of large dams and undertaking emergency actions.

Digital Switching Systems for Punjab and Haryana

1910. SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Project Approval Board has approved a joint venture with a leading telecommunications company from Japan, Fujitsu for the manufacture of Electronic Digital Switches System for Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the project was originally approved as a joint venture between the Punjab Electronic Development Corporation and Fujitsu but subsequently one more partner was inducted making it a three-way joint venture;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a similar project in Haryana is being set up; and